

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION SS-25

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O R 281430Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7445

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T NAIROBI 0882

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS (1) DECLAS IMP TO DETERMINE

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, PINI, KE, ET, FR, US, UR, SO

SUBJ: KENYAN CONCERN RE EVENTS AFFECTING FUTURE OF TERRITORY
OF AFARS AND ISSAS (TFAI)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: KENYA FOREIGN MINISTRY PERMSEC KIBINGE SUMMONED DCM LINDSTROM TO MINISTRY TODAY TO EXPRESS GOK'S GROWING ANXIETY OVER RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WHICH COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT FUTURE STATUS OF TFAI FROM GOK VIEWPOINT AND TO REQUEST CURRENT USG ANALYSIS OF SITUATION. WOULD APPRECIATE CABLE UPDATE THIS WEEK OF USG ASSESSMENT OF TFAI DEVELOPMENTS AS WELL AS STATEMENT OF CURRENT USG POLICY ON TFAI WHICH WE COULD PASS TO GOK. END SUMMARY.

2. KENYA FOREIGN MINISTRY PERMSEC KIBINGE AND MINISTRY OFFICIAL WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE MEETING IN LOURENCO MARQUES TOLD DCM TODAY THAT GOK IS INCREASINGLY ALARMED OVER RECENT EVENTS WHICH THEY FELT COULD LEAD TO EARLY SOMALIA ATTEMPT TO TAKE OVER TFAI, A DEVELOPMENT WHICH COULD TRIGGER ARMED CONFLICT BETWEEN SOMALIA ON ONE HAND AND ETHIOPIA AND ITS KENYAN ALLY ON OTHER. WHILE LIBERATION COMMITTEE

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MADE NO SPECIFIC DECISIONS RE TFAI, SOMALIA WAS ACTIVELY

LOBBYING WITH CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS TO PERSUADE OAU MEMBERS TO GIVE EXCLUSIVE RECONGNITION TO MOGADISCIO-BASED SOMALI COAST LIBERATION FRONT (FLCS). (AT PRESENT, KIBINGE SAID LIBERATION COMMITTEE RECOGNIZES TWO OF FOUR TFAI MOVEMENTS--FLCS AS WELL AS ETHIOPIAN-BASED LMD. IN ADDITION, ETHIOPIANS AND OTHERS WERE ARGUING THAT ALL FOUR FACTIONS SHOULD AT LEAST BE HEARD BY OAU, INCLUDING ALI ARF'S PPDI.) KENYANS NOW BELIEVE FLCS ALREADY UNOFFICIALLY ENJOYS GREATER SUPPORT AMONG OAU COUNTRIES THAN MPLA IN ANGOLA PARTLY BECAUSE OF SOMALIA'S CONVINCING PORTRAYAL OF A C AREF AS "FRENCH PUPPET" INTERESTED ONLY IN MAINTAINING FRENCH MILITARY PRESENCE IN TFAI AFTER INDEPENDENCE. ALSO HEIGHTENING GOK NERVOUSNESS ARE (1) INTELLIGENCE REPORTS INDICATING SIGNIFICANT REDEPLOYMENT OF SOMALIH RMED FORCES I E NORTHERN SOMALIA NEAR TFAI AND (2) FEAR THAT SOVIET UNION AS IN ANGOLA MIGHT INTERVENE OR AT LEAST ENCOURAGE SOMALIA TO SEIZE TFAI.

3. KIBINGE SAID THAT ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAD JUST VISITED KENYA TO EXPRESS HIS COUNTRY'S CONCERN OVER TFAI SITUATION AND TO AFFIRM ETHIOPIA'S READINESS TO TAKE APPROPRIATE MILITARY COUNTER ACTION IF SOMALIA WERE TO ATTEMPT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY TO TAKE OVER TFAI. IF FULL SCALE WAR BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA WERE TOBNTUATE, KIBINGE FELT THAT KENYA WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BECOME INVOLVED BECAUSE OF ITS BILATERAL MUTUAL DEFENSE PACT WITH ETHIOPIA. THUS, HE POINTED OUT, EVENTS IN TFAI ARE OF MUCH GREATER INTEREST TO KENYA THAN THOSE IN FAR OFF ANGOLA. ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTER NOW VISITING KAMPALA TO SEEK SUPPORT OF OAU CHAIRMAN AMIN FOR OAU POSITION WHICH WOULD GUARANTEE IN SOME FASHION INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTERRITSO F TFAI. HE PLANS TO BRIEF KENYANS ON OUTCOME OF HIS MEETING WITH AMIN BEFORE RETURING TO ADDIS ABABA.

4. KIBINGE SAID GOK OFFICIALS NOW SO WORRIED THAT THEY PLANS SPECIAL MEETING ON TFAI WITH PRESIDENT KENYATTA AT END OF WEEK. KIBINGE SAID HE WOULD BE MOST APPRECIASECRET

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TIVE OF ANY INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS WHICH WE COULD PROVIDE TO HIM PRIOR TO THIS MEETING ON DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING FUTURE OF TFAI. HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HAVE USG ASSESSMENT OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF TFAI, PARTICULARLY IF IT WERE TO COME UNDER SOVIET CONTROL. IN ADDITION,/HE ASKED, WHAT WOULD BE PROBABLE ATTITUDES OF SUCH STATES AS EGYPT, ISRAEL, AND SAUDI ARABIA TO POSSIBILITY OF SOVIET MILITARY CONTROL OF BAB EL

MANDEB? HE ALSO REQUESTED A CURRENT STATEMENT OF
USG POLICY ON TFAL. EMBASSY IN POSSESSION OF NSSM-184
STUDY ON HORN OF AFRICA, BUT ASSUMES THAT NUMEROUS
CHANGES WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN HORN DURING TWO AND ONE-
HALF YEARS SINCE THIS STUDY WAS PREPARED WOULD NECESSI-
TATE SIGNIFICANT REASSESSMENT OF US INTERESTS, OB-
JECTIVIES AND RECOMMENDED POLICIES VIS A VIS TFAL.
IF UPDATED REASSESSMENT NOT READILY AVAILABLE, WOULD
HOPE THAT DEPARTMENT COULD, NEVERTHELESS, PROVIDE
BY JANUARY 30 AT LATEST RESPONSE TO AS MANY OF KIBINGE'S
QUESTIONS AS POSSIBLE.
MARSHALL

NOTE BY OC/T: TEXT AS RECEIVED.

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